

From: Scott Tillema
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 1:36pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs--

I do not support your actions against Microsoft, and I believe that a great injustice is being committed.

To uphold "justice" is to ensure that a person (or persons) get exactly what they deserve. As a citizen of the United States, I expect my government to serve this principle of justice when protecting the most essential value that we all cherish: freedom.

By freedom, I am referring to our constitutional right to determine, pursue, create, and protect our own values. The opposite of freedom is slavery; it is the act of initiating force against others as a means of acquiring values. The only **moral** use of force is as a means of protection or retaliation against those who would initiate it. Thus, force should only be used as a means of protecting freedom from slavery.

Microsoft has not committed any injustice. They have **earned** their market share by giving the market what it wants. When faced with a challenge, they focus their power and resources on making a better product. If necessary, they have put restrictions on how **their** product may be purchased. They do anything that is **within their power** to advance and protect their products -- their values. Yet they have never initiated **force** against any other person. Every man is free to accept Microsoft's terms or part company -- unlike a law of the government that imposes its terms by threat of imprisonment.

(In fact, as a consumer and computer user, I freely choose to use many non-Microsoft owned products -- including a non-Microsoft internet browser (called Opera)!)

I ask you to look at Microsoft and ask yourself: would you classify this corporation in the same category as bank robbers, con-men, rapists, murderers, or terrorists? Do they even share **one degree** of the essence that makes these men criminal? Because, this is what you have done.

The prosecution of Microsoft is a grave **injustice**, committed on behalf of those who would use the government to impose their values by **force**. By pursuing this case against Microsoft, the government has **unfairly** given my fellow citizens the priveledge of using the state sanctioned use of force to achieve their desires. I recognize this as an act of slavery.

Your justification of this injustice is the Sherman Act; a law that restricts the freedom of businesses to determine how their products are traded. The purpose of this act is to impose some ill-conceived economic theory as a matter of law. As it is written it makes every business subject to the whim of a judge's interpretation rather than the facts of reality.

Justice in the world of economics is not served by a judge's whim -- it is served by reality. Microsoft, as does any business, recognizes this reality. Regardless of any attempt Microsoft has taken to protect its current products, it cannot escape the need to innovate or create new products. In fact, this is the reason that Netscape lost its own market dominance: regardless of price, eventually Microsoft had to produce a better product. Unless Microsoft continues to innovate and improve, it too will lose its market dominance.

You can see that justice is done: see to it that Microsoft, all businessmen, and all Americans are set free from the tyranny of such laws as the Sherman Act that impose slavery on our lives.